

Blind Pension

What does this appropriation support?

Blind Pension:

Provides assistance for blind persons who do not qualify under the supplemental aid to the blind law and who are not eligible for Supplemental Security Income benefits. Each eligible person receives a monthly cash grant and state funded Medicaid.

Supplemental Aid to the Blind (SAB):

This program is operated in Missouri in conjunction with a totally state-supported blind pension program. Through SAB the state provides blind persons who meet certain requirements with reasonable subsistence in accordance with the standards developed by Family Support Division. Eligible individuals receive a monthly cash grant and Medicaid.

What is the authorization for this program?

State statute: RSMo. 208.020, 208.030, 209; Federal law: Section 1618 of the Social Security Act

Is this a federally mandated program?

Blind Pension is not federally mandated. SAB is mandated. Federal law mandates that once a state exercises their option to operate a program (such as SAB) it may not be terminated without losing all federal assistance.

Are there federal matching requirements? No.

What are the expenditures?

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Planned
GR	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FEDERAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OTHER	\$18,567,876	\$19,763,554	\$20,684,439	\$22,901,889
TOTAL	\$18,567,876	\$19,763,554	\$20,684,439	\$22,901,889

What are the sources of other funds?

Blind Pension Fund (Revenue source is 0.3% of each \$100 valuation of assessed taxable property.)

Who is eligible?

Blind Pension:

- 18 years or older, of good moral character, living in the state and blind as defined by RSMo 209.040;
- Has not given away, sold or transferred real or personal property in order to be eligible for Blind Pension;
- Is single, or married and living with spouse, and does not own real or personal property worth more than \$20,000 (In determining the value of

real or personal property, the real estate occupied by the blind person or spouse as the home shall be excluded);

- Has no sighted spouse living in Missouri who can provide support;
- Is found ineligible for Supplemental Aid to the Blind;
- Is willing to have medical treatment or an operation to cure the blindness unless he/she is 75 years of age or older;
- Is not a resident of a public, private or endowed institution except public mental institution; and
- Is found ineligible to receive federal supplemental income benefits.
- \$510 per month is the maximum. People who receive Blind Pension also receive medical benefits.

Supplemental Aid to the Blind:

- 18 years of age or older, living in the state, blind as defined by RSMo 209.040 and in need of assistance because there is insufficient income to meet basic needs;
- Single and does not own real or personal property worth more than \$2,000 or, if married and living with spouse, does not own real or personal property worth more than \$4,000 individually or together (Note: In figuring the value of property the following is not considered: the home in which the blind person lives, clothing, furniture, household equipment, personal jewelry or any property used directly by the blind person in earning a living.);
- Does not have parents living in Missouri or a sighted spouse who can provide support;
- Does not publicly solicit alms;
- Is not a resident of a public, private or endowed institution except a public medical institution; and
- Is required to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- \$510 per month is the maximum grant. People who receive SAB also receive Title XIX Medicaid.

How many people are served?

Average Monthly Caseload		
FY	Blind Pension	SAB
2003	2,737	830
2004	2,745	831
2005	2,777	828